

## Digging a Ditch In a Flash

Things move quickly nowadays. The village of yesterday is tomorrow's metropolis. Speed is a requisite, and newer methods that smack of rapidity and labor and money saving are in demand.

Ditches that once consumed many days of hand or machine labor are now being blasted out in almost the twinkling of an eye. By degrees man is learning to adopt some of nature's simple, but mighty forces. And the gulches and valleys that old Mother Earth has created by her natural upheavals and eruptions are being duplicated in a smaller way by some of the more progressive and up to date farmers.

Digging ditches with dynamite is simply a newer and more improved method of trench building. The method employed in wet work is simply to punch holes from eighteen to twenty-four inches deep along the line desired to ditch, and then load each hole with a charge of 50 per cent straight dynamite.

Long stretches of ditch can be loaded and fired at one time. One cap placed

in a cartridge of dynamite in the middle hole of the line of charged holes and fired will do the work.

A single row of holes can usually be depended upon to excavate a ditch from seven to nine feet wide and about thirty to forty inches deep. Where larger ditches are required the holes can be made deeper and loaded heavier, or two or more lines of holes, spaced from three to four feet apart, can be used. Incidentally the holes can be made in the roughest kind of swamp or in flood muck beds, where other methods of ditching are practically impossible.

When the soil is dry or the weather is too cold to use the propagated method of blasting described above low freezing farm or stumping powder is used in holes spread farther apart, often in large ditches as far as four or five feet. In this case each hole must be primed with an electric cap, as the explosive shock will not propagate in dry ground.

The cheapest direct foot of small ditch is obtained by using the electric firing method and farm or stumping powder.



Loading.



The Ditch.

BLASTING DITCHES THROUGH SWAMP.

### ANIMAL TO BE LEFT ALONE

Porcupine Strictly Defensive, but a Dreaded Foe When It Comes to Close Quarters.

Perhaps you will come to the conclusion that this animal is more interesting to read about than to meet in the woods, the Philadelphia North American says. But don't worry—there are not many of him left. If he were common he might become, along with the rattlesnake, the emblem of the apostles of preparedness, for he carries a veritable arsenal around with him on his back. He is called the porcupine.

The only American member of the family is the Canadian porcupine, which occasionally wanders southward into the mountains of Pennsylvania.

Covering his body from head to foot are sharp spines, or quills, varying from one to four inches in length. When the porcupine is undisturbed the quills lie flat against the body like hair. Approach him, and the spines become erect, pointing outward like a thousand bayonets.

Ancient writers handed down fanciful stories about how the porcupine could throw one of these quills from the body. He doesn't possess this power, however. He's wholly a defensive animal.

Sometimes a dog, unacquainted with this terror of the forest, will pounce upon him like he would on a rabbit. Immediately there's a howl of pain—from the dog, not the porcupine. The quills are covered with barbs, and once they are imbedded in another animal they work their way farther in sometimes causing death.

The quills of the Canadian porcupine are hidden by a covering of hair. He makes his home in hollow trees or in caverns, and eats vegetables and bark from trees.

### Worth Knowing.

To remove rust from steel rub the rusted part well with sweet oil and allow it to stand for 48 hours. Then rub with a piece of soft leather and sprinkle with finely powdered unslaked lime until the rust disappears.

### Looking Ahead.

My little niece had been made happy by being asked to be a ring bearer at a friend's wedding. A few evenings later we noticed her looking with a speculative eye at her older sister and the young man who was calling, and then she announced with a pleased expression: "I expect he will maybe ask me to be in his program, too."—Chicago Tribune.

### Dante's Claim Rejected.

"What was that tenderfoot tryin' to sell you?" asked Broncho Bob. "Dante's Inferno," replied Three Finger Sam. "I told him I didn't see how Dante had any business stakin' a claim on what Crimson Gulch was liable to produce gratis and abundant any minute."—Washington Star.

### That Little Word "If."

Husband (testily): "Oh, if—if—if! You remind me of what the fellow who got lost in the woods said to his companion." Wife—"Well, what did he say?" Husband—"He said: 'Now, if we had some ham we'd have some ham and eggs, if we had some eggs.'"—Boston Transcript.

### The Reformed Clock.

Denmark has reformed its clock, which now boasts of twenty-four hours. But little damage is done. As the day begins at midnight, the smaller numbers remain in the hours when the belated husband finds it most difficult to pronounce.

### Undefined.

All feeble minds and all dilettanti want, first of all, definitions in matters that are not subjects of deductive thinking. The Roman jurists, the greatest the world has ever seen, taught us to beware of definitions.

### Disadvantages of Age.

Men of age object too much, consult too long, adventure too little, repent too soon and seldom drive business home to the full period, but content themselves with a mediocrity of success.—Bacon.

## MINK HAS VARIED TALENTS

Web-Footed Animal Can Climb Trees and Go a-Fishing; Also Is Valuable Prey.

Very talented is the animal. He can climb trees like a squirrel, swim like a fish, dig like a mole and kill chickens like a weasel. In addition he is endowed with an unusually fine fur, which makes him valuable prey for the hunter. He's more or less common along woodland streams, and altogether too common in the neighborhood of the farmer's poultry yards. We call him the mink.

Although he can dig as good a burrow as any other animal, the mink sometimes chooses to steal a muskrat's home rather than build one for himself, a writer in the Philadelphia North American states. To avoid future trouble with the ousted muskrat, the mink kills and eats him.

Usually he prefers to make his home along the banks of a stream or at the foot of a waterfall. Sometimes, when his taste for poultry becomes cultivated, he will establish himself under the farmer's barn to be near his food supply. He can track his prey like a hound. Besides poultry, he has a taste for rats, mice, fish and frogs.

To aid him in his fishing, the mink has partly webbed feet. His sharp claws help him in climbing trees, and sometimes he will attack birds in their nests. He is a little more than twelve inches long, has a dark brown fur and a light spot on his throat. Before muskrat became popular a single skin of the mink was worth from \$10 to \$12.

### Seemed a Good Proposition.

"Yes," sighed the beautiful heiress, "my romance has been shattered beyond all repair. And the cruel parent was responsible for all my suffering." We sympathized and begged her to go on.

"My suitor was young and handsome, clever. True, he had no money. But he had everything else, and oh! now he loved me. My father couldn't see him. Father is a business man, and he could not understand that true worth and poverty are not incompatible. He demanded that I dismiss my lover; he fretted and fumed whenever he called."

"I told him all my father had said against him. I repeated to him my father's remark that he would give \$5,000 if I would never see him again."

"And what did he say to that?" "He—he asked when father could be found in his office."

### To Drive Out Malaria

And Build Up The System Take the Old Standard GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. You know that you are taking, as the formula is printed on every label, showing it is Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form. The Quinine drives out malaria, the iron builds up the system. 50 cents

### FOR YOUR CHILD'S COUGH

If your child has a cold, nose runs or coughs much get a small bottle of Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey. Its a pleasant Pine-Tar-Honey syrup, just what children like and just the medicine to soothe the cough and check the cold. After taking, children stop fretting, sleep good and are soon entirely well. Insist on Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey. 25c at your Druggist.

### DON'T NEGLECT KIDNEYS.

It is now conceded by physicians thereby forcing the kidneys to do more work than nature intended. Evidence of kidney trouble, such as Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Prescription, Overcomes Kidney Troubles, that the kidneys should have more attention as they control the other organs to a remarkable degree and do a tremendous amount of work in removing the poisons and waste matter from the system by filtering the blood.

assistance when needed. We take less exercise, drink less water and often eat more rich, heavy food. The kidneys should receive some lame back, annoying bladder troubles, smarting or burning, brick dust or sediment, sallow complexion, rheumatism, maybe weak or irregular heart action, warns you that your kidneys require help immediately to avoid more serious trouble.

An ideal herbal compound that has had most remarkable success as a kidney and bladder remedy is Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root. There is nothing else like it. It is Dr. Kilmer's prescription used in private practice and it is sure to benefit you. Get a bottle from your druggist.

However, if you wish to first test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure to mention The Lancaster News.

Letter to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. Prove What Swamp-Root Will Do For You.

Send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample size bottle. It will convince anyone. You will also receive a booklet of valuable information, telling about the kidneys and bladder. When writing, be sure and mention The Lancaster Semi-Weekly News. Regular 50c and \$1.00 size bottle for sale at all drug stores.

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